

SIR WILLIAM RAMSEY

Famous Scientist Has Devoted His Life to Plans for the Betterment of Humanity.

DISCOVERER OF NEW ELEMENT

He Tells What Chemistry Is Doing for People To-Day and Points Out Notable Problems of Future.

New York, Sept. 17.—That the very elements may be traced to their origin was the suggestion which astonished the world of science.

It was made almost casually at a banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria by one of the greatest living authorities on chemistry, Sir William Ramsay of London, before the members of the Society of Chemical Industry, over whose annual meeting he presided.

"It seems to me," were his exact words, "that we may be on the eve of the discovery of the origin of the ordinary elements, which may be the products of the breaking down of radio-active elements of high atomic weight."

If this should prove to be true, all the theories of the composition and properties of matter would be destroyed. Numerous elements the naming of which has almost exhausted the Greek language, might be traced to three or four of which they are only derivations.

After that it would be a step to the realization of the dreams of men of the old times who tried to find the philosopher's stone, the transmutation of base metals into gold. It might then develop that there is one element from which all others are derived. Radium itself seems capable of division, for Sir William Ramsay indicated its synthesis when he announced that he had observed it change into helium.

In discussing the subject he said that there were evidences that in recent years there had been changes of great importance in the realm of nature.

It may be that in the brief statement he made last week in the beginning of a new session which will overlook all the present molecular and atomic theories. Interesting as are the discoveries which he has made, they are not more so than Sir William Ramsay himself.

Those who know him say that he is the busiest man in all England, for his life is devoted to countless plans for the improvement of the condition of the human race. The world of science knows him as the discoverer of new elements, a pioneer in the road which leads to the wonderland of radium and as a modern alchemist who has been the means of turning many things into gold.

His life would be one of self-effacement if he could make it so, for despite achievements which in another age would have caused him to be hailed as a worker of miracles he is in the habit of being called the King of England knighted him, the Emperor of Germany called him to lecture in the royal presence, and the various societies have given him degrees and gold medals, yet he works as hard as he did in the days when he was a student at the University of Tübingen.

SIR WILLIAM'S ARRIVAL.
His arrival here as president of the Society of Chemical Industry was regarded in the light of an event. The occasion had brought to this city dozens of faculties of science, leaders in scientific thought from all the world, and those who had achieved wonders in the application of chemistry, yet all hailed him as chief. The news that he had come to the reception given at the Chemists' Club seemed to act upon the assemblage like an electric impulse, and he was surrounded at once by a group of admirers, all eager to see him and to shake him by the hand.

Many years of his life were spent in teaching before he attracted the attention of the world of science. Sir William Ramsay was born in Glasgow in 1852. His father was a civil engineer and from him he obtained a bent toward scientific investigation. He was graduated from the Glasgow Academy and studied in the university which bears the name of his native city. The young Scotchman, early chose chemistry as his life work and after leaving Glasgow he went to the University of Tübingen.

HOW HE MET REMSEN.
His introduction to the laboratory of that institution was told by him recently at a meeting of the society where he had had the opportunity of conferring a gold medal upon his classmate, Ira Remsen, president of Johns Hopkins University.

"I went to the front door of the laboratory," said he, "little knowing then, as I soon after learned, that that entrance was only opened for the King. A loud rattling of bolts and locks the door was finally opened, and there stood before me a young man, whose name and arms seemed to be as black as ink. In my best German I inquired for Vorleszimmer."

"Well, came the reply in English, 'I guess that you want to go to the lecture-room.' That was my first meeting with Ira Remsen."

Mr. Ramsay returned to England after completing his studies at the University of Tübingen and became an assistant in the Young Laboratory of Technical Chemistry. He was from 1871 to 1880 an assistant in chemistry in the University of Glasgow.

GREAT AS A TEACHER.
His value as a teacher and an administrator was quickly recognized and he was made principal within a year after his arrival at the University of Bristol. He remained in this position until 1887, when he was called to the College of London, where he was made professor of chemistry. The reorganization of the University of London brought Professor Ramsay into touch with teaching more than ever before.

It is his favorite theory that a teacher of chemistry should be constantly engaged in research work, and he carried out for years elaborate investigations. His attention was first called to the composition of the air by Lord Rayleigh, the men who had become convinced that there was in the atmosphere another element than the oxygen and the hydrogen of which it is composed.

Professor Ramsay was familiar with all the means which might be undertaken to make a practical test and experiments were begun. Cavendish, an investigator, late in the eighteenth century had hinted at the possibility of there being something in the air which was beyond the skill of chemistry to find.

These researches resulted in 1894 in the announcement of the discovery that there was another element, inert gas, much like nitrogen, which was a constituent of the air. Sir William Ramsay and his investigations until he found that the spectroscopic examination of argon showed the peculiar black lines made by helium, a metal supposed to exist only in the sun. He was led to believe that between argon and helium there were other elements. The perfection of an apparatus for liquefying air enabled him by distillation to discover three other elements—neon, the new one, krypton (the hidden one) and xenon (the stranger).

These investigations began ten years ago resulted in the discovery of five new elements.

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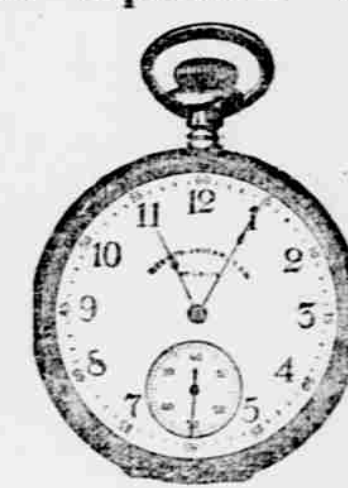
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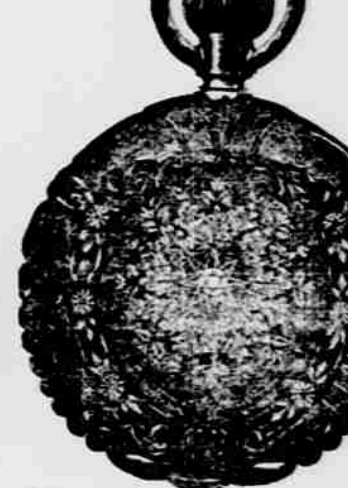
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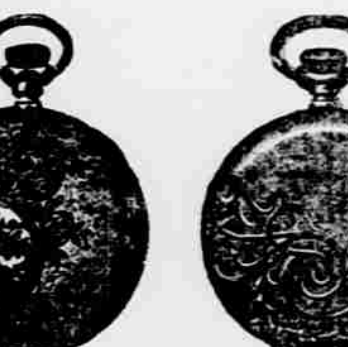
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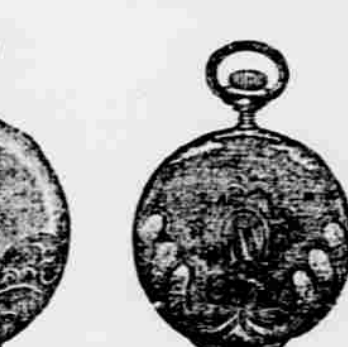
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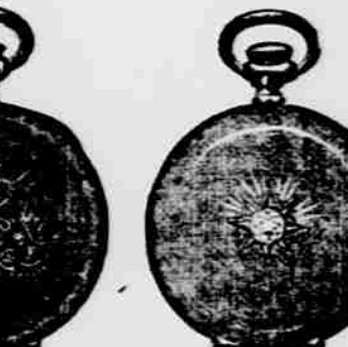
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KENTUCKY WOMAN HOPES TO OVERTURN THE POWER OF ORGANIZED OUTLAWRY IN BREATHITT COUNTY



Mrs. J. B. Marcum, Widow of Lawyer Who Was Assassinated Last Year, Suing Prominent Men for \$100,000, Believing That She Will Thus Be Enabled to Expose Persons Whose Money Hired the Murderers.

SHE HAS \$1,500 AND ANTAGONISTS MORE THAN \$1,000,000.

Lexington, Ky., Sept. 17.—Has it been left to a woman to say that justice is alike for the rich and the poor?

For fifty years it has been said of Kentucky that a wealthy man could hire an assassin for a side of bacon and escape punishment, even though the actual assassin be caught and hanged.

The French-Everole feud in Perry County men were hired to fight just as soldiers are paid to kill in times of war.

Mrs. Abella Marcum, widow of the noted young mountain lawyer, James B. Marcum, who was shot by an assassin in the Breathitt County Courthouse in the spring of 1901, says she will spend the last dollar she has to expose the men who hired Assassins Curtis Jett and Tom White to slay her husband. The case is now pending in the court at Winchester.

Mrs. Marcum is putting her small fortune, amounting to about \$1,500 against almost unlimited resources. The men she is suing—James Hargis of Jackson, A. B. Hargis of Winchester, D. Patton French of Winchester and Edward Callahan of Crockettville, Breathitt County—are combined with a million dollars, and they can raise if necessary another million from friends.



Mr. J. B. Marcum, Son of the Defendant.

DEFENDANTS WEALTHY.

They are popular and enterprising men. Judge Hargis is County Judge of Breathitt County, a member of the State Demo-

cratic Committee, and owns and controls large land and timber interests in the mountain sections of the State, and conducts several stores. A. H. Hargis is interested with his brother, Judge Hargis, in several stores and numerous logging claims, and owns a blue grass farm, one of the finest in Clark County.

French is a large land holder. He was formerly the accredited leader of the French faction of the French-Everole feud, and after the Everole faction had been exterminated he moved with his family to Winchester, where he has been engaged in farming.

Edward Callahan is Sheriff of Breathitt County and a close political friend of the Hargises. He owns broad acres of mountain land and has amassed a fortune in the lumber business in the last few years. The four men are probably the most substantial in the mountain section of the State, and their influence has reached State, and they have many friends and advisers in various parts of the Commonwealth.

Mrs. Marcum, who has asked these men for \$100,000, is a frail woman, small in stature, with dark brown eyes and hair, shows determination in every move and countenance. She was a mountain girl when she married Marcum, a bright young lawyer, just graduated at Kentucky State College here. Her father, Captain B. D. Hurst, was one of the most substantial and influential in Breathitt County. He was quiet and had never taken any part in the feuds. He was Postmaster at Jackson. Mrs. Marcum says:

"I do not want a dollar of their bloody

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